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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 09/380,310 | 08/31/1999 | KOJI UKAI | 0425-0736P | 2449 |
| 2292 7590 09/28/2007 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | | EXAMINER HAGHIGHATIAN, MINA | |
| | | | ART UNIT 1616 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE 09/28/2007 | DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/380,310 | UKAI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Mina Haghighatian | 1616 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-9,13-16,20-22,25,28-30,33-37,40-53,55-59 and 61-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-9,13-16,20-22,25,28-30,33-37,40-53,55-59 and 61-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/26/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/26/07 has been entered.

Receipt is acknowledged of IDS filed 07/26/07.

No claim has been amended, cancelled or newly added. Accordingly claims **1, 2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 25, 28-30, 33-37, 40-53, 55-59 and 61-63** remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 25, 28-30, 35-37, 40-53, 55-59 and 61-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tai (5,013,557) in view of Kawakami et al (The Rational for E2020 as a potent acetylcholinesterase inhibitor).

Tai discloses taste masking compositions comprising spray dried microcapsules containing sucralfate and methods for preparing same. The spray dried spheroidal microcapsules comprise in percentages by weight between 1 and 70% of **sucralfate**

Art Unit: 1616

and between 30 and 99% of a polymer soluble in gastric fluids (col. 5, lines 30-60). The **polymers soluble in the gastric fluids** are polymers which **bind to sucralfate** with taste masking properties and dissolve in gastric fluid. The suitable polymers include alginic acid, carrageenan, xanthan, etc (col. 6, lines 26-55). Tai lacks specific disclosure on donepezil hydrochloride as the active agent.

Kawakami et al teach E2020 (also known as donepezil hydrochloride) as a potent acetylcholinesterase inhibitor. E2020 was developed for treatment of Alzheimer's disease, and possibly other dementias.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the formulations of Tai containing a basic medicine with unpleasant taste and an acidic polysaccharide such as carrageenan with other active agents such as donepezil hydrochloride as taught by Kawakami et al in order to prepare more drug formulations with a masked taste for patient convenience and to increasing patient compliance. In other words, one of ordinary skill in the art having the formulations of Tai, would have been motivated to apply the same method to other medications with unpleasant taste in order to provide better tasting medication for patients and increase patient compliance.

Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tai (5,013,557) in view of Kawakami et al (The Rational for E2020 as a potent

acetylcholinesterase inhibitor) as applied to claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 25, 28-30, 33-37, 40-53, 55-59 and 61-63 above, and further in view of Morikazu et al (JP 4-346937).

The combined references, discussed above, lack specific disclosure on derivatives of carrageenan.

Morikazu teaches a method of simply and economically reducing bitterness of drugs and foods. For that, Morikazu mixes a bitter substance with a gelatinizing agent such as gelatin, *k*-carrageenan, etc and a seasoning agent, preferably a sweetener (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have implemented the gelatinizing agents such as *k*-carrageenan as taught by Moikazu into the drug formulations of the combined references with the reasonable expectations of successfully preparing a safe and effective drug formulation without a bitter or unpleasant taste for patients that need such medicaments.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 25, 28-30, 33-37, 40-53, 55-59 and 61-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diehl (5,612,026) in view of Kawakami et al (The Rational for E2020 as a potent acetylcholinesterase inhibitor), and further in view of Morikazu et al (JP 4-346937).

Art Unit: 1616

Diehl discloses drink mix compositions comprising a therapeutically effective dose of an **anionic exchange resin**, from about 0.05 to about 1.25g of xanthan gum and an edible, water soluble salt (col. 2, lines 13-17). The anion exchange resin means any resinous material having cationic moieties, such as *cholestyramine* and *colestipol* hydrochloride, both of which are strongly basic anion exchange resins (col. 3, lines 15-30). Diehl also discloses that edible water soluble salts MAY be added (col. 3, lines 48-62). Other materials including bulking agents and carriers may be added. Such materials can be oligosaccharides and **polysaccharides** (col. 5, lines 20-45). The resulting dosage form is typically granules (col. 6, lines 62-67).

Diehl also discloses a method of preparing the said formulations, where cholestyramine, xanthan gum and maltodextrin are charged and allowed to mix (col. 6, lines 45-67). Diehl lacks specific disclosure on other basic medicines and other specific polysaccharides for the said formulation.

Kawakami teaches donepezil hydrochloride and Morikazu teaches polysaccharides such as *k-carrageenan* for mixing with bitter medicines.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted one basic active agent for the other as taught by Kawakami et al in order to benefit from the masking properties for more medications with unpleasant taste. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to have looked for other suitable agents for assisting with masking of bitter tastes of some

Art Unit: 1616

medicaments as taught by Morikazu. In other words, one of ordinary skill would be motivated to look for other suitable medicinal components with unpleasant taste and other suitable agents for masking the taste to implement the same method for them in order to provide the same benefit for more patients.

The pending claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the previous Response (dated 12/01/06) and have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the final Office action mailed 02/26/07. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after filing of a Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114 (RCE). See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

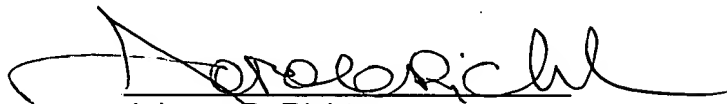
Art Unit: 1616

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mina Haghighatian whose telephone number is 571-272-0615. The examiner can normally be reached on core office hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mina Haghighatian
Patent Examiner
September 20, 2007


Johann R. Richter
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600